

AI - VI - A - 006  
Joseph Cresap House  
Cresaptown

early 19th century

This early 19th century dwelling consists of a two story, three bay wide "L" shaped facade. The house was originally a log structure, but was remodeled with white aluminum siding. Additional work was done on the gabled roof with the installment of new asphalt shingles. Seven low cross gable dormers punctuate the front and rear roof line directly above the second story windows. The windows are all double hung wooden sash frames. Shed roofs cover the main entrance, side porch and rear patio. The house features two corbeled brick chimneys, one central and the other interior.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0102565304  
AL VI A 006

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Joseph Cresap Log House

AND/OR COMMON

Varner Log House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

198 Oakwood Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Cresaptown

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Arden E. Varner

Telephone #: 729-8098

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Route 5, Box 198A

CITY, TOWN

Cresaptown

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21502

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland,

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: 441

Folio #: 265

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

12-VI-7-006

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Joseph Cresap House is located at 198 Oakwood Avenue, in Cresaptown, Allegany County on the southwestern side of the street one quarter mile east of the intersection of Route 220 South.

The house consists of a two story, three bay wide "L" shaped facade. A rear wing abuts the main block on the southwestern side forming the "L" of the building and is of identical construction as the main block. The building originally was log structure; however, it has since been covered with aluminum siding. The entire structure is supported by a low stone foundation and exhibits a plain water table. The roof of the structure is gabled and is covered by replaced asphalt shingles. Seven low cross gable dormers are placed along the front and rear of the roof line and are placed directly above the second story windows. Windows in the building are all double hung wooden sash frames with one over one lights and plain trim. The main entrance to the house is located on the front northeastern face and features a replaced paneled door with transom and side lights. A Three bay end porch with shed roof covers the main entrance; a side porch and rear patio, both with shed roofs, are also featured on the house. Two corbeled brick chimneys, one located centrally and another on the wing, are also featured within the facade.

The Cresap house is structurally very sound but has been drastically altered from the original appearance.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

12-01-7-006

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	

The original log portion of the Cresap House was built by Joseph Cresap, son of Daniel Cresap, in 1801.<sup>1</sup> In the second quarter of the 19th century, the house was purchased by Samuel Brady, a virginian. Brady's Confederate sympathies led to one of the only Civil War incidents which occurred in Allegany County. In 1865, a group of Confederate supporters known as McNeill's Rangers planned to capture two Union generals who were staying in Cumberland. The Rangers traveled down over Knobley Mountain and stayed at the Brady Farm until early morning. Before dawn, they left on the McMullen Road for Cumberland. The raid was successful and the southerners captured General Ben Kelly and General George Crook from their respective hotels and quickly made their escape toward Romney and the Confederate lines.<sup>2</sup>

1 "Heritage Press", September 1972, Vol.1, No.11, p.6.

2 ibid

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AL-VI-4-006

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson, Program Coordinator of All. Co. Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

7/6/76

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-8991

CITY OR TOWN

LaVale,

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Old Joseph Cresap House  
Route 5, Oakwood Avenue, Cresaptown, MD

M-VI-A-006

HISTORICAL CHAIN OF TITLE

Allegany County Deed - Liber 441, Folio 265  
grantee: Arden E. Varner  
grantor: Charles R. Rousseau  
September 29, 1970  
Consideration: \$55,000

Allegany County Deed - Liber 374, Folio 236  
grantee: Charles R. Rousseau  
grantor: Rudolph Steinberger  
July 15, 1964  
Consideration: \$22,500

Allegany County Deed - Liber 335, Folio 166  
grantee: Rudolph Steinberger  
grantor: Richard P. Carter  
May 29, 1961  
Consideration: \$22,000

Allegany County Deed - Liber 313, Folio 119  
grantee: Richard R. Carter  
grantor: Jesse H. Simmons  
July 28, 1959  
Consideration: \$19,000

Allegany County Deed - Liber 175, Folio 422  
grantee: Jesse H. Simmons  
grantor: John D. Anderson  
August 7, 1936  
Consideration: \$7,000

Allegany County Deed - Liber 151, Folio 337  
grantee: John D. Anderson  
grantor: Hume O. Annan Real Estate Company  
August 28, 1925  
Consideration: \$4,100

Allegany County Deed - Liber 147, Folio 400  
grantee: Hume O. Annan Real Estate Company  
grantor: Hume O. Annan  
June 20, 1924

Allegany County Deed - Liber 147, Folio 376  
grantee: Hume O. Annan  
grantor: Cumberland Industrial Corporation  
April 16, 1924

Allegany County Deed - Liber 129, Folio 47  
grantee: Cumberland Industrial Corporation  
grantor: Cumberland Chamber of Commerce  
August 26, 1919

Old Joseph Cresap House  
Route 5, Oakwood Avenue  
Cresaptown, Maryland

HISTORICAL CHAIN OF TITLE

Allegany County Deed - Liber 125, Folio 145  
grantee: Cumberland Chamber of Commerce  
grantor: Henry J. Knieriem  
July 29, 1918

Allegany County Deed - Liber 98, Folio 638  
grantee: Henry J. Knieriem  
grantor: Charles L. Cunningham  
May 26, 1906  
32 acres

Allegany County Deed - Liber 90, Folio 65  
grantee: Charles L. Cunningham  
grantor: Samuel D. Brady  
December 24, 1901  
32 acres

Allegany County Deed - Liber 70, Folio 688  
grantee: Samuel D. Brady  
grantor: Thomas S. Kean - heir of Susan F. Brady  
September 15, 1891  
Consideration: \$2,100  
32 acres

Allegany County Deed - Liber 47, Folio 265 and 266  
grantee: Susan F. Brady  
grantor: John Brady and Carrie Brady  
September 14, 1874  
Consideration 10,000  
32 acres

Allegany County Deed - Liber 44, Folio 95  
grantee: John and Carrie Brady  
grantor: Isaac T. Brady  
September 30, 1870  
Consideration \$25,000  
509 7/8 acres

Allegany County Deed - Liber 44, Folio 95  
grantee: John and Carrie Brady  
grantor: Isaac T. Brady  
Susan F. Brady  
Kate B. Randall  
Sammuel Brady (deceased)  
Sallie Brady  
Mary Darrow  
William Brydon  
Susan V. Brydon  
September 30, 1870  
509 7/8 acres - "Eve's Blessing"

AL VI-A-006

Allegany County Deed - Liber 20, Folio 16  
grantee: Sammuel Brady  
grantor: James W. Jones  
February 25, 1862  
Consideration: \$250  
509 7/8 acres - "Eve's Blessing"

Allegany County Deed - Liber 4, Folios 671, 672, 673, 674  
grantee: James W. Jones  
grantor: John Hoyer and Mary (wife)  
February 3, 1849  
Consideration: \$1,000  
509 7/8 acres

Joseph Cresap original owner  
Early 1800's



INVENTORY NO. A1- VI- A - 006

Liber - 441

DATE: 6/15/76

Folio - 265

130' x 234'

REPAIRS: Drastic moderate, minorNAME OF PROPERTY: Old Joseph Cresap HouseLOCATION OF PROPERTY: Rt 5- Oakwood Ave, Cresaptown, MDDIRECTION DWELLING FACES: NortheastNAME OF OWNER: Varner, - Arden E. VarnerADDRESS: R.F.D. 5 Box 198 ACresaptown, Maryland 21502 729-8098

STORIES: 1( ) 2(✓) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( ) 3(✓) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) 7( ) ( )

WINGS, ADDITIONS: Rear WingDwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular) "L" Shaped

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- ( ) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)  
( ) BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.  
( ) STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated  
(✓) ICG - Originally  
(✓) Other: Coverings Weatherboard then Aluminum

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTER, OTHERS PlainFOUNDATIONS: HIGH, ICG BRICK, STONEWATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICKWINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS 1/1(✓) 2/2( ) 6/6( ) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( )  
Plain pegged ( ) nailed ( ) wide ( ) narrow ( ) mitred ( ) pediment ( )ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: NortheastHARDWARE: original( ) replaced(✓)FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAINPaneled, Vertical, Horizontal BoardsCORNICHE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)

original( ) replaced(✓) Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze,

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLARE, HIP, SHED, LANSARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, TORMERS # No-Windows Architrave  
No-Windows Architrave  
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original( ) replaced(✓) Cross GablesPORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed(✓) hip( ) gable( ) 3 Bay End - 3 Bay SideCHIMNEYS: NUMBER 2 BRICK(✓) STONE( ) CORBELLED(✓) original(✓) replaced( )

LOCATION: Flush end( ) Inside end( ) Outside end( ) Central(✓) Interior (✓)

ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

Use - ResidenceSignificance - ArchDate Constructed - Early 19thCondition - Good

Key points regarding interior architecture.

1. Floor plan

No through hall--How many rooms long and deep?  
Where is stairway? Straight or winding?

With through hall--Rooms on both sides? How many?  
Rooms on one side only? How many?

Is stair in through hall?

Open or enclosed? Straight--one run. Straight--landing  
How many? Curved.

If not in hall, where is stair?

2. Wall finish: plaster, paneled, board partition  
Note presence of chair rail, cornice, etc.

3. Fireplaces: How many? Parallel to walls or diagonal in corner?

Mantels: wood--mouldings, pilasters, columns  
masonry--marble(what color?), brick

3. Doors: on the inside of exterior doors, note the presence of applied flush boards and their direction (diagonal, vertical, horizontal). In general are doors paneled or ledge or other?

4. Door and window trim: plain, architrave; fluted, reeded; pilasters

5. Kitchen: Where is original if extant or known (marked by very large fireplace)? Separate building; wing to principal dwelling; within principal dwelling? On which floor of any of the above?

6. Bath: Where is original if extant or known (marked by very large fireplace)?

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Allegany TOWN "GRESAP PARK" VICINITY Cresaptown STREET NO. Cor. Oakwood & Second Ave.  ORIGINAL OWNER Joseph Cresap ORIGINAL USE Home PRESENT OWNER Chas. R. & Alice S. PRESENT USE Home Rousseau WALL CONSTRUCTION Log (original) with NO. OF STORIES 2 additions		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY AL-391 JOSEPH GRESAP (1755-1827) 2. NAME DATE OR PERIOD ca 1801 (land) STYLE Log; Additions later ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC NO	
<p>TRADITION: Joseph Cresap Original settler--Cresaptown, Md. 1800 census shows Joseph Cresap living in Upper Oldtown (now Cresaptown)...election District No. 7</p> <p>Log Cabin section 15 inches thick; additions added; 8 rooms -now covered; Spring-house reconditioned.</p> <p>Brady's Station (on B &amp; O RR). No evidence that the railroad provided a Station (building). Records and interviews with RR people say there was a shed-like structure with bench similar to school-bus stops of today--near the railroad tracks--so we have been unable to verify tradition of second building on the property as being "place where people bought tickets to ride trains".</p> <p>.....over.....</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE		Endangered	
		very good Interior <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exterior <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Second Ave. "Cresap Park" First Ave. Memorials Cresaptown, Md.	
Warners Rest. Cumberland, Md. Rizzo-south →		Oakwood	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. Helen Straw Hinkle Hazel G. Hansrote checked house, grounds, deeds		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Hazel Groves Hansrote, Chairman Maryland Historical Trust and Secretary Preservation Society Allegany County DATE OF RECORD July...Aug. 1970	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

OK

JOSEPH CRESAP (1755-1827)

Samuel D. Brady

Isaac & John D. Brady

Mary G. Darrow

J.W.Scott Cochrane, DeWarren H. Reynolds, Trustees of Mary K.Darrow

John B. Gunning

Lucy V. Cunningham (and Charles L. Cunningham)

Henry J. Knieriem and wife Anna

Cumberland Chamber of Commerce

Cumberland Industrial Corp.

Hume O. Annan

John D. Anderson and Hattie, his wife

Jesse H. & Mamie E. Simmons

Richard P & Susan G. Carter

Rudolph & Geneva R. Steinberger

Charles R. & Alice S. Rousseau, Aug.4,1964-Present owner (1970)

(expect property to be sold within a year; transferred by work)

#### SAMUEL D. BRADY

It was at Mr. Brady's house (in what is now Cresap Park) that the plan to capture the Union Generals during the Civil War were finalized.

The McNeill Rangers had made the plan, crossed over the Potomac River stopped at the Brady home, then proceeded to Cumberland, Md. where Gen. George Crook was taken from bed in the Rever House, later known as Kennewegs) and Gen. B. F. Kelly was taken from bed at the Barnum House, later known as the Windsor Hotel. Both establishments were on Baltimore Street, the main street of the town. The Generals were captured Feb. 21, 1865. Joseph L. Vandiver captured Gen. Crook while Joseph Kuykendahl captured Gen. Kelley.

Both buildings from which the Generals were captured (landmarks) are now parking lots and were suitably marked with plaques by the Civil War Centennial Committee. Plaques have been removed by Urban Renewal, which has promised to put them back, when the downtown section is completed.

Hansrote & Hinkle.



AI-VI-A-006

Joseph Cresap House

198 Oakwood Ave Cresaptown

USGS Cresaptown Quad

1:24,000

1949



Old Joseph Cresap House

AI-VI-A-006

5 Oakwood Ave

Cresaptown

John E. Nelson

6/15/76

West





Old Joseph Cresap House

AI-VI-A-006

5 Oakwood Ave.

Cresaptown

John E. Nelson

6/15/76

South



Old Joseph Cresap House

AI-VI-A-006

5 Oakwood Ave

Cresaptown

John E. Nelson

6/15/76

North



Joseph Cresap - Cresaptown  
md -  
(ALLEGANY  
co)

AL-VI-006

By Helen Hinkle  
1970

MHT